

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)	
IDAHO POWER COMPANY TO REVISE ITS)	CASE NO. IPC-E-03-7
DEPRECIATION RATES FOR PLANT IN)	
SERVICE.)	ORDER NO. 29363
)	

On October 9, 2003, Idaho Power Company filed a Motion for Acceptance of Settlement on behalf of itself, Commission Staff, and the Industrial Customers of Idaho Power (ICIP), which are collectively referred to as "the Parties." The changes agreed to by the Parties resulted in an overall reduction in the Company's requested depreciation rate from approximately 3.15% to 3.06%, or a reduction in the Company's annual requested increase in depreciation expense from about \$7.0 million to \$4.3 million. After reviewing the record and the provisions of the Stipulation, the Commission accepts the Stipulation as a fair, just and reasonable resolution in this case.

PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

Idaho Power is an electric utility engaged in the generation, transmission, distribution and sale of electric energy and provides retail electric service to approximately 380,000 customers in southern Idaho and eastern Oregon. Idaho Power Company filed an Application on May 6, 2003 requesting authority to revise its depreciation rates for the Company's electric plant in service. Idaho Power's depreciation rates have not been significantly changed since the Commission issued Order No. 24739 in 1993. Although the Company's total annual depreciation expense would increase by nearly \$7 million under its proposal, the present Application did not request a change in electric rates.

The proposed depreciation rates are based on the results of a detailed depreciation study of Idaho Power's electric plant in service as of December 31, 2001 that was conducted by Gannett Fleming, Inc. Gannett Fleming identified and measured changes as well as recommended depreciation rates. The most significant rate change is in the category of General Plant, which Gannett Fleming recommends be increased from 5.52% to 11.24%. Gannett Fleming's study also updates net salvage percents and service life estimates for all plant assets.

Idaho Power's current depreciation rates have been applied to the investment in each primary and subplant account. The proposed depreciation rates are based on the straight line, remaining life method, average service life procedure for all electric plant. A summary schedule detailing the December 31, 2001 original plant cost, depreciation accrual amount, and rate is set forth in Attachment 1 to the Application.

Based on \$2,900,657,420 of depreciable electric plant in service on December 31, 2001, Idaho Power's requested depreciation rate changes would increase its total annual depreciation expense by \$6,994,021. Idaho Power requested that its Application be processed pursuant to the Commission's Rules of Procedure, i.e., by written submission rather than by hearing. Commission Rules of Procedure, IDAPA 31.01.01.201-204. The Company also asked that the Commission issue an Order approving the proposed depreciation rates effective December 1, 2003.

On June 3, 2003, the Commission issued a Notice of Application, Modified Procedure, Public Workshop as well as Intervention and Comment Deadlines. The ICIP was the only party who requested and was granted intervention in these proceedings. Order No. 29274. The Parties met on multiple occasions to negotiate a settlement prior to filing this Settlement Agreement. To allow additional time for resolution, the Commission extended the deadlines for comment and reply comments from August 8 and 19 to August 29 and September 9, respectively. Order No. 29313. Prior to the filing of this Settlement, Staff filed comments on August 29, 2003 setting forth the same principles now embodied in this proposed Settlement.

PROPOSED SETTLEMENT

To settle the depreciation matters identified above, the Parties agree to reduce Idaho Power's requested increase in depreciation expense from \$6,994,021 to \$4,310,591 per year, based upon 2001 plant levels, in accordance with the following:

1. Steam Production Plant (Accounts 311.00, 312.10, 312.20 and 314.00): The Company will lower the salvage costs for the Jim Bridger Plant from a negative ten percent to a negative five percent which coincides with the rates recently approved by the Commission for PacifiCorp. Idaho Power and PacifiCorp are joint owners of the Bridger Plant. As illustrated in Exhibit 1 to the Agreement, changes to Accounts 311.00, 312.10, 312.20 and 314.00 will reduce the depreciation expense of the Company's steam production plant from \$22,672,796 as requested in its Application to \$21,693,983, or by \$978,813 per year based on 2001 plant levels.

2. Hydraulic Production Plant (Accounts 331.00, 332.1, 332.2 and 334.00): Idaho Power will reduce the proposed depreciation expense of its hydraulic production plant from \$13,445,303 as proposed in its Application to \$12,393,839 (based upon plant levels as of December 31, 2001) by adjusting the net salvage rate for accounts 331.00, 332.1, 332.2 and 334.00. These changes will result in an overall depreciation expense reduction of \$1,051,464 per year based on 2001 plant levels for the Company's hydraulic production plant as illustrated in Exhibit 1. Idaho Power and Staff acknowledged that they do not agree on the weight that should be given to the term of FERC operating licenses in setting depreciation expense. Idaho Power and Staff agreed that this settlement does not constitute acquiescence on that issue by either Party.

3. Transmission Plant (Accounts 354.00 and 355.00): The Company will reduce the negative salvage rate of its towers and fixtures (Account 354.00) from a proposed negative salvage rate of 50% to a negative salvage rate of 30%. Furthermore, the Company will adjust the negative salvage rate of its poles and fixtures (Account 355.00) from a negative salvage rate of 75% to a negative salvage rate of 60%. The combined effect of these changes will reduce the proposed depreciation expense of the Company's transmission plant from \$10,717,860 to \$10,064,707 for a reduction of \$656,153 in proposed depreciation expense based upon 2001 plant levels and as illustrated in Exhibit 1 to the Settlement.

4. General Plant (Accounts 391.20 and 391.21): The Parties agreed to divide the two existing computer equipment plant subaccounts (391.200 and 391.210) into four subaccounts. Equipment with a vintage prior to 2002 will be amortized at the rates proposed by the Company in its original Application. Equipment with a vintage 2002 and thereafter will be amortized at the straight-line rate for the agreed-upon service lives: 5 years for 391.200 and 6 years for 391.210. The actual implementation process for vintages prior to 2002, including rates and/or retirements, shall be further determined during the general rate case that is expected to be filed in October 2003.

5. The Parties agreed to the depreciation accruals originally proposed by the Company in its Application for its distribution plant, its general plant (with the exception of computer Accounts 391.200 and 391.210), and its other production plant categories as shown on Exhibit 1 to the Settlement.

The Parties agreed that the depreciation rates agreed to should become effective on December 1, 2003. According to the Motion for Acceptance of Settlement, all Parties to this case are signatories to the Stipulation. Furthermore, the Parties agree that the Stipulation is in the public interest and all the terms of the Stipulation are fair, just and reasonable. The Parties request the Commission issue an Order accepting the Stipulation in settlement of all remaining issues in this case. As a result, the Parties do not believe that an evidentiary hearing is required according to Procedural Rule 274.

COMMISSION FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Pursuant to Commission Rule 274 we shall decide whether to accept the Stipulation based on the record currently before us. IDAPA 31.01.01.274. This Stipulation is the result of substantial negotiations and all parties that participated in those negotiations have signed it. Accordingly, we find further proceedings are not necessary.

After reviewing the Stipulation and the Motion, the Commission adopts and approves the Stipulation as presented. We find that this Stipulation appropriately resolves issues regarding the proper depreciation accruals to be booked in Idaho Power's accounts going forward. We further find that this Stipulation has been made to compromise contested claims and is entered largely for the purpose of fairly resolving contested issues, avoiding expense, inconvenience, and uncertainty of further litigation. Finally, pursuant to Commission Rule 275 and *Idaho Code* § 61-505 we find that the Parties have carried their burden of showing that the Stipulation is just, fair and reasonable, in the public interest, and in accordance with the law and regulatory policy of this State. IDAPA 31.01.01.275. Accordingly, we accept the Stipulation and depreciation rates proposed by the Parties without modification. The depreciation rates and accruals adopted by the Parties' Stipulation and the Commission are detailed in the attachment to this Order.

ORDER

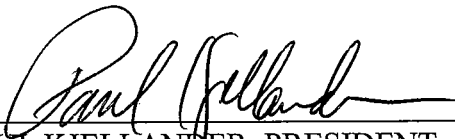
IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Parties' Motion for Acceptance of Settlement is granted. The Commission adopts the depreciation rates contained in the Stipulation.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the depreciation rates approved by this Order shall become effective on December 1, 2003.

THIS IS A FINAL ORDER. Any person interested in this Order (or in issues finally decided by this Order) or in interlocutory Orders previously issued in this Case No. IPC-E-03-7 may petition for reconsideration within twenty-one (21) days of the service date of this Order

with regard to any matter decided in this Order or in interlocutory Orders previously issued in this Case No. IPC-E-03-7. Within seven (7) days after any person has petitioned for reconsideration, any other person may cross-petition for reconsideration. *See Idaho Code* § 61-626.

DONE by Order of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission at Boise, Idaho this *22nd* day of October 2003.



PAUL KJELLANDER, PRESIDENT

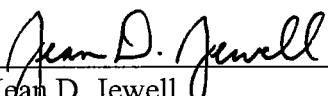


MARSHA H. SMITH, COMMISSIONER



DENNIS S. HANSEN, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:



Jean D. Jewell
Commission Secretary

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EXHIBIT 1

IDAHO POWER COMPANY
COMPARISON OF PROPOSED CALCULATED ANNUAL DEPRECIATION ACCRUALS VS. PRESENT ANNUAL DEPRECIATION ACCRUALS
CALCULATED ANNUAL DEPRECIATION RATES AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2001
AVERAGE SERVICE LIFE PROCEDURE AND GENERAL PLANT AMORTIZATION

ACCOUNT (1)	ORIGINAL COST (4)	SURVIVOR CURVE (2)	ORIGINAL COST (4)	Case No. IPC-E-03-07			August 4, 2003			August 11, 2003			CURRENT ANNUAL		DIFFERENCE BETWEEN APPLICATION AND STIPULATED AMOUNTS	DIFFERENCE BETWEEN STIPULATED AMOUNTS AND CURRENT ACCRUAL	
				NET	CALCULATED ANNUAL	ACCRUAL	NET	ACCRUAL	ACCRUAL	NET	ACCRUAL	ACCRUAL	ACCRUAL				
				SALVAGE PERCENT (3)	AMOUNT (7)	RATE (8)=(7)/(4)	SALVAGE PERCENT (3)	AMOUNT (7)	RATE (8)=(7)/(4)	SALVAGE PERCENT (3)	AMOUNT (7)	RATE (8)=(7)/(4)	AMOUNT (7)	RATE (8)=(7)/(4)			
DEPRECIABLE PLANT																	
STEAM PRODUCTION PLANT																	
310.20	LAND AND WATER RIGHTS	196,144.64	75-R4	196,144.64	0	4,459	2.27	0	4,459	2.27	0	4,459	2.27	4,314	2.20	0	145
311.00	STRUCTURES AND IMPROVEMENTS	128,683,865.41	90-S1	128,683,865.41	(10)	3,492,475	2.72	(10)	3,492,475	2.72	(10)	3,328,448	2.58	3,813,837	2.67	164,028	(485,388)
312.10	BOILER PLANT EQUIPMENT - SCRUBBERS	80,724,722.49	55-R3	80,724,722.49	(10)	2,392,347	2.96	(10)	2,392,347	2.96	(10)	2,231,435	2.78	2,782,981	3.44	(60,912)	(551,556)
312.20	BOILER PLANT EQUIPMENT - OTHER	368,766,095.01	70-R1.5	368,766,095.01	(10)	10,944,878	3.05	(10)	10,944,878	3.05	(10)	10,482,118	2.92	10,584,206	3.00	482,780	(122,087)
312.30	BOILER PLANT EQUIPMENT - RAILCARS	4,116,372.94	25-R3	4,116,372.94	20	113,479	2.78	20	113,479	2.78	20	113,479	2.78	159,933	3.91	0	(46,454)
314.00	TURBOGENERATOR UNITS	109,330,890.85	50-S0.8	109,330,890.85	(10)	3,978,504	3.84	(10)	3,978,504	3.84	(10)	3,807,389	3.48	3,495,803	3.24	171,115	311,586
315.00	ACCESSORY ELECTRIC EQUIPMENT	61,467,796.93	65-S1.5	61,467,796.93	0	1,329,069	2.16	0	1,329,069	2.16	0	1,329,069	2.16	1,850,874	3.01	0	(521,805)
316.00	MISCELLANEOUS POWER PLANT EQUIPMENT	10,224,247.74	45-R0.5	10,224,247.74	0	321,042	3.14	0	321,042	3.14	0	321,042	3.14	424,643	4.19	0	(103,601)
316.40	MISCELLANEOUS POWER PLANT EQUIPMENT	215,428.25	9-L3	215,428.25	25	3,335	1.55	25	3,335	1.55	25	3,335	1.55	22,875	11.03	0	(19,540)
316.50	MISCELLANEOUS POWER PLANT EQUIPMENT	17,334.61	9-L3	17,334.61	25	618	3.57	25	618	3.57	25	618	3.57	1,774	12.53	0	(1,156)
316.70	MISCELLANEOUS POWER PLANT EQUIPMENT	21,497.67	17-S2.5	21,497.67	25	742	3.45	25	742	3.45	25	742	3.45	1,086	5.05	0	(344)
316.80	MISCELLANEOUS POWER PLANT EQUIPMENT	2,131,591.02	14-L0.5	2,131,591.02	35	91,848	4.31	35	91,848	4.31	35	91,848	4.31	65,493	3.05	0	26,355
TOTAL STEAM PRODUCTION PLANT		755,776,087.56		755,776,087.56		22,672,796			22,672,796			21,693,983		23,207,828		978,813	(1,513,845)
HYDRAULIC PRODUCTION PLANT																	
331.00	STRUCTURES AND IMPROVEMENTS	126,853,320.12	100-S1	126,853,320.12	(25)	3,162,628	2.51	(20)	3,005,661	2.37	(20)	3,005,661	2.37	2,377,278	1.84	176,667	628,383
332.10	RESERVOIRS, DAMS AND WATERWAYS - RELOCATION	19,460,506.20	85-S4	19,460,506.20	(20)	438,338	2.25	(15)	407,357	2.09	(10)	376,377	1.83	503,535	1.56	61,961	72,842
332.20	RESERVOIRS, DAMS AND WATERWAYS - OTHER	217,522,511.63	85-S4	217,522,511.63	(20)	4,916,572	2.28	(15)	4,578,632	2.10	(10)	4,240,743	1.85	5,417,385	2.56	875,829	(1,176,642)
332.30	RESERVOIRS, DAMS AND WATERWAYS - NEZ PERCE	5,599,934.81	Square	5,599,934.81	0	152,890	2.73	0	80,644	1.44	0	80,644	1.44	134,825		72,046	(54,181)
333.00	WATER WHEELS, TURBINES AND GENERATORS	181,422,884.18	60-R3	181,422,884.18	(5)	3,324,062	1.83	(5)	3,324,062	1.83	(5)	3,324,062	1.83	2,813,696	1.43	0	510,366
334.00	ACCESSORY ELECTRIC EQUIPMENT	34,459,140.20	47-R1.5	34,459,140.20	(5)	1,048,470	3.04	0	981,709	2.85	0	981,709	2.85	985,608	1.86	64,761	316,101
335.00	MISCELLANEOUS POWER PLANT EQUIPMENT	13,588,424.13	100-S0	13,588,424.13	0	249,870	1.84	0	249,870	1.84	0	249,870	1.84	213,850	1.47	0	35,820
338.00	ROADS, RAILROADS AND BRIDGES	6,933,691.08	75-R3	6,933,691.08	0	134,973	1.95	0	134,973	1.95	0	134,973	1.95	106,093	1.76	0	28,880
TOTAL HYDRAULIC PRODUCTION PLANT		605,840,412.13		605,840,412.13		13,445,303			12,762,708			12,393,838		12,032,270		1,051,464	361,569
OTHER PRODUCTION PLANT																	
341.00	STRUCTURES AND IMPROVEMENTS	852,849.83	Square	852,849.83	0	24,206	2.84	0	24,206	2.84	0	24,206	2.88	23,180	3.33	0	1,026
342.00	FUEL HOLDERS	1,637,976.17	Square	1,637,976.17	0	46,378	2.83	0	46,378	2.83	0	46,378	2.83	65,332	3.33	0	(18,954)
343.00	PRIME MOVERS	747,458.26	Square	747,458.26	0	21,516	2.88	0	21,516	2.88	0	21,516	2.88	20,604	3.33	0	912
344.00	GENERATORS	40,868,665.91	Square	40,868,665.91	0	1,161,478	2.84	0	1,161,478	2.84	0	1,161,478	2.84	1,115,184	3.33	0	46,294
345.00	ACCESSORY ELECTRIC EQUIPMENT	1,193,280.04	Square	1,193,280.04	0	33,283	2.79	0	33,283	2.79	0	33,283	2.79	31,868	3.33	0	1,415
346.00	MISCELLANEOUS POWER PLANT EQUIPMENT	2,419,086.63	Square	2,419,086.63	0	69,631	2.88	0	69,631	2.88	0	69,631	2.88	66,640	3.33	0	2,991
TOTAL OTHER PRODUCTION PLANT		47,719,316.64		47,719,316.64		1,356,492			1,356,492			1,356,492		1,322,808		0	33,684
TRANSMISSION PLANT																	
350.20	LAND RIGHTS AND EASEMENTS	12,814,639.05	65-R3	12,814,639.05	0	197,074	1.54	0	197,074	1.54	0	197,074	1.54	174,097	1.45	0	22,977
352.00	STRUCTURES AND IMPROVEMENTS	27,241,837.88	60-R3	27,241,837.88	(20)	352,556	1.29	(20)	352,556	1.29	(20)	352,556	1.29	744,575	3.23	0	(392,019)
353.00	STATION EQUIPMENT	184,645,276.92	45-S0.5	184,645,276.92	(5)	3,906,396	2.12	(5)	3,906,396	2.12	(5)	3,906,396	2.12	4,281,469	2.43	0	(355,073)
354.00	TOWERS AND FIXTURES	55,140,863.00	60-S4	55,140,863.00	(50)	1,669,189	3.03	(40)	1,610,899	2.74	(30)	1,362,227	2.45	593,580	1.89	316,942	458,647
355.00	POLES AND FIXTURES	80,179,114.20	55-R2	80,179,114.20	(75)	2,693,810	3.36	(60)	2,357,599	2.94	(60)	2,357,599	2.94	2,167,389	2.95	336,211	190,210
356.00	OVERHEAD CONDUCTORS AND DEVICES	96,912,093.19	60-R2	96,912,093.19	(20)	1,895,456	1.96	(20)	1,895,456	1.96	(20)	1,895,456	1.96	1,709,801	1.85	0	185,655
359.00	ROADS AND TRAILS	318,351.06	65-R3	318,351.06	0	3,399	1.07	0	3,399	1.07	0	3,399	1.07	4,854	1.52	0	(1,455)
TOTAL TRANSMISSION PLANT		457,252,175.30		457,252,175.30		10,717,860			10,223,179			10,054,707		9,955,785		653,153	108,942
DISTRIBUTION PLANT																	
361.00	STRUCTURES AND IMPROVEMENTS	13,306,974.14	55-R2.5	13,306,974.14	(20)	272,237	2.05	(20)	272,237	2.05	(20)	272,237	2.05	351,080	2.83	0	(78,843)
362.00	STATION EQUIPMENT	102,170,691.39	50-O1	102,170,691.39	0	1,679,401	1.64	0	1,679,401	1.64	0	1,679,401	1.64	2,405,079	2.43	0	(725,678)
364.00	POLES, TOWERS AND FIXTURES	166,092,812.41	41-R1.5	166,092,812.41	(50)	6,090,876	3.67	(50)	6,090,876	3.67	(50)	6,090,876	3.67	5,445,759	3.35	0	645,117
365.00	OVERHEAD CONDUCTORS AND DEVICES	86,633,411.78	46-R2	86,633,411.78	(30)	2,811,631	3.25	(30)	2,811,631	3.25	(30)	2,811,631	3.25	2,114,193	2.48	0	697,438
366.00	UNDERGROUND CONDUIT	28,582,949.30	60-R2	28,582,949.30	(25)	582,854	2.04	(25)	582,854	2.04	(25)	582,854	2.04	543,757	2.02	0	39,097
367.00	UNDERGROUND CONDUCTORS AND DEVICES	119,073,666.85	37-S1.5	119,073,666.85	(10)	3,256,624	2.73	(10)	3,256,624	2.73	(10)	3,256,624	2.73	3,872,996	3.38	0	(616,372)
368.00	LINE TRANSFORMERS	248,883,110.69	35-R2	248,883,110.69	5	4,300,852	1.73	5	4,300,852	1.73	5	4,300,852	1.73	9,631,275	3.82	0	(5,330,423)
369.00	SERVICES	42,822,542.09	30-S2	42,822,542.09	(30)	1,571,629	3.69	(30)	1,571,629	3.69	(30)	1,571,629	3.69	1,981,870	4.94	0	(410,241)
370.00	METERS	37,736,793.14	30-L2	37,736,793.14	0	1,530,909	4.06	0	1,530,909	4.06	0	1,530,909	4.06	1,084,051	2.90	0	446,858
371.10	PHOTOVOLTAIC INSTALLATIONS	359,317.71	8-S5	359,317.71	0	102,116	28.42	0	102,116	28.42	0	102,116	28.42	25,31			